

Date: 25 Aug 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lionel Goh | **Topic:** Let's Serve God together! | **Scripture:** Joshua 24:1-28

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Be reminded of God's faithfulness in their lives
2. Be encouraged to seek and consider how we can serve God in our lives.

SERMON SUMMARY

Ps Lionel preached from **Joshua 24** – Joshua exhorted the people to remember how God has led them and exhorted them to make a decision whom they would serve. He and his household chose to serve the Lord. In the same way, Ps Lionel shared about RiverLife's history and where God continues to call us to become. Ps Lionel also encouraged us to serve God.

SERMON RECAP

RiverLife turns 33 this week! Let us thank God for His faithfulness in our lives! Ps. Lionel Goh shared from **Joshua 24** as he brought the Joshua series to an end:

1. 2 Key Thoughts in Joshua 24

- Joshua recounted God's faithfulness to Israel (v 2-13)
- Joshua challenged the nation to serve God wholeheartedly (v 14-28)

2. Joshua Recounted God's Faithfulness

- In blessing their patriarchs (v 2-4)
- In delivering Israel from slavery (v 5-7)
- In protecting Israel in the wilderness (v 8-10)
- In giving them the Promised Land (v 11-13)

3. God Has Also Been Faithful to RiverLife for the Past 33 Years.

- He calls us to be a pillar of light in the East
- He revived us when we were down
- He tells us what He desires us to become
- He blesses us with a new generation of leaders and staff

4. Joshua Challenged the Nation to Serve God Wholeheartedly (v 14-18)

5. Personal Reflection

- What has God done for you and your family over the past few years?
- Will you and your household resolve to serve the Lord wholeheartedly?
- How can you serve the Lord practically?

Discussion Questions

- 1. As we celebrate God's faithfulness in our lives, share a time with the cell where you are thankful for God's presence and faithfulness.**

Leader's Notes

The aim of the question is for members to think back to a time where God displayed His faithfulness in their lives – it could be everyday things (eg. remembering the greatness of God through nature, learning more about Him from the Word and understanding more of God, recognizing the grace and mercy that comes with salvation, seeing breakthroughs or recognizing God's constant presence in the big and small things). If leaders find appropriate, they can encourage members to develop a routine of gratitude and / or continual submission of things to God in prayer.

Transition

God blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others as well!

- 2. Joshua exhorted the Israelites to choose whom they would serve. As a cell, consider what other masters aside from God we consciously or unconsciously serve. Joshua and His household chose to serve God. As a cell, consider what are Joshua's reasons for choosing to serve God above all others, and how this may be relevant for us today.**

Leader's Notes

The question aims to highlight that we all serve and worship something or someone. What we serve and worship appears in our priorities and our choices, and it would be helpful for the cell to consider what other things there are (eg. ourselves, materialism, success other than God). The second part of the question aims to let members consider what are the reasons Joshua chose to serve God above all other masters, and the pros and cons of following different masters. As the cell considers the different options, it is hoped that the members will recognize that while following Christ seems difficult at times, He alone truly satisfies us and meets our deepest needs. It is the best choice.

Transition

Being given a choice and being able to serve God is a privilege that has been given to us.

- 3. We are the body of Christ and all of us play a part in building the church. What are some ways we can serve God in our church and in our areas of influence?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to reflect on opportunities where they can serve God where He has placed them, and for the cell to keep each other in prayer. If appropriate, leaders can also take time for the cell to reflect on what serving God means and how we can posture ourselves to be one that serves Him in all aspects of our lives.

Resource: *What Does It Mean to Serve God* by Desiring God

Closing

God has called us into His kingdom and may we continue to encourage each other as fellow disciples of the faith.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Thank God for His faithfulness for our lives.
- Pray for RiverLife Church that we will all continue to grow in spiritual maturity and in deeper relationships with one another.

2. RiverLife

Let us continue to pray for God's hand to be upon our church, its leaders and that all its members will grow in maturity.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas – For any retaliation from Hamas and Iran as a result of the killing of Hamas' leader
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
 - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
 - d. Bangladesh – Flooding
 - e. Japan – Typhoon Ampil
 - f. Hong Kong – Heatwave
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the resurgence of the mpox virus in Africa.
 - b. Pray for Bangladesh as the country recovers after the ousting of its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina
 - c. Pray for the tourist lost to the sinkhole in Malaysia

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- € Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- € Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

- 1. SuperLife Missions Carnival.** This annual Missions Carnival organised by our Children's Ministry is in support of and in partnership with RiverLife Missions. Sun, 8 Sep | 11am-12pm Atrium & Grace Canopy (Level 1) This year, our children's efforts will go towards raising \$15,000 for a school that provides education for Myanmar refugees.
- 2. Bible Equipping Sessions – Numbers: Wandering in Light of the Gospel, Refining Our Faith through the Test of Life**
While its title refers to the two censuses taken in the wilderness, the Book of Numbers is really about the people of Israel being caught between the wonderful promises of God and the harsh realities of life as they wandered through the wilderness for thirty-eight years. In the book, the complex story of Israel's unfaithfulness and rebellion is set against the backdrop of God's faithfulness and patience. How will the people react to the challenging circumstances right before their eyes? And how will they respond to God's discipline? Behind all the hardships and grumblings lie God's ultimate intent to "humble and test" the people, and through this, to refine their faith in Him (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). **This series comprises 4 sessions:**

- Fri, 6 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Sun, 8 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)
- Fri, 13 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Sun, 15 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)

Pre-order your lunch for Sunday sessions by Mon, 2 Sep: rlc.sg/num-lunch

3. Volunteering with RCS.

a. Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct

Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.

b. BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.

Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: rlc.sg/rcs-serve24

- 4. Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov.** Forest City Marina Hotel. Cost: \$600 per couple. A meaningful weekend retreat for married couples to spend unhurried and uninterrupted time with each other to learn together, and evaluate and strengthen their marriage. Registration: rlc.sg/mr (Capacity: 40 couples. Closing Date: 30 September)
- 5. Alpha At RiverLife (Chinese Run).** 24 Aug – 26 Oct 2024, 9 In-Person Sessions. Alpha brings you on a journey to explore life's biggest questions - Who are you and why are you here on earth? If there's a God, what would you ask Him? All your questions about life, faith and God are welcomed at Alpha. Join us at our next run!
 - Find out more: rlc.sg/alpha-chi
 - Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alphachi
- 6. SPYCES (Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples).** 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Sep 2pm-5pm. Online via Zoom Fees: \$10 per participant. SPYCES is a series of five workshop sessions where participants will connect with fellow parents in the same season, and learn Biblical and practical ways of relating to their children and grandchildren.

For more info: rlc.sg/spyces-info



Announcements

7. **RiverLife Missions.** Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions

1. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).**
The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc_sg_ya).

Gathering Dates: 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov, 14 Dec (Christmas Outreach)

2. **Caleb Ministry (For Seniors).** Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years. The Caleb Ministry gathers on a bi-monthly frequency.

Gathering Dates: 15 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec

3. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

4. **Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYCs • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Numbers • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach • 21, 22, 28 & 29 Sep - RTF Activation 	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3 • 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles • 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Nov – YA Gathering • 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth) • 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3 • 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering • 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference • 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend



Ministry & Opportunities

1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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